

Central Indiana

October 2016

Climate Summary

Tied for 11th Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 56th Driest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

The warm fall season continued into October for central Indiana and the Ohio Valley as most of the region enjoyed their warmest October since 2007 with temperatures generally averaging 5 to 8 degrees above normal. An increasingly stronger Pacific jet stream helped to maintain near zonal flow over much of the contiguous United States for most of the month with periodic upper level ridges impacting the Midwest and Ohio Valley.

Highs rose during the first week of the month into the mid and upper 70s before peaking in the mid 80s on the 6th and 7th as the area resided under high pressure. After a brief cooldown to near normal levels over the Columbus Day weekend, temperatures returned into the mid and upper 70s from the 10th through the 12th. The passage of another cold front once again enabled highs to fall back into the 60s for a couple days before warmth returned for a five day stretch from the 15th through the 19th. Most locations had high temperatures peak again in the lower 80s during this time period

A cold front that brought the heaviest rainfall for most of the area for the entire month passed late on the 19th and early on the 20th, with the coolest daytime highs of October in the 50s in the few days that followed. It was during this period that most of central Indiana saw the coldest overnight lows, with widespread 30s on the morning of the 22nd. This ended up being one of only two or three mornings sufficient for patchy frost formation over parts of the region. Temperatures then remained generally near to slightly above normal for most of the rest of the month.

| Site | October 2016 Avg Temp | October 2016 Difference | Highest Temperature | Lowest Temperature |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|

| | | from Normal | | |
|-----------------|------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Indianapolis | 60.7 | +5.7 | 84 on 6 | 38 on 22 |
| Lafayette | 58.2 | +3.9 | 84 on 6 | 32 on 22 |
| Muncie | 60.5 | +6.7 | 85 on 6 and 7 | 37 on 25 |
| Terre Haute | 60.4 | +6.2 | 86 on 6 | 35 on 22 |
| Bloomington | 61.4 | +6.8 | 84 on 7 and 17 | 36 on 22 |
| Shelbyville | 61.9 | +7.7 | 86 on 6 and 7 | 37 on 25 |
| Indy–Eagle Crk. | 60.8 | +6.0 | 85 on 6 | 40 on 22 and 28 |

At Indianapolis, there were 24 days with above normal average temperatures, 6 days with below average temperatures, and 1 day with average temperatures.

October 2016 was tied for the 11th warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

October rainfall was below normal to normal for much of Indiana. Above normal rainfall was generally confined to northwest and the northern portions of southwest and south central Indiana. The driest spot was near the Ohio River in Warrick County where only one-tenth of an inch fell and the wettest locations were in Lake County where nearly 5.5 inches fell. Much of central Indiana received 2 to 4 inches.

The largest rain event of October occurred from the evening of the 19th through the morning of the 21st. Rainfall of 1 to 5 inches fell in much central and southern Indiana. The heaviest rainfall of 3 to 5 inches fell in portions of west-central and southern Indiana, along and north of U.S. Highway 50 and south of Interstate 70. This rain ended the driest start to October in 63 years for south central Indiana near Louisville. Measurable rainfall during October fell in this area only on the 20th and 21st. Rainfall of one-half inch or more fell primarily in northern Indiana on the 1st, 12th, 16th, 26th-27th and the 30th.

The heavy rains of the 19th and 20th caused the Eel River in west central Indiana and the White River from Worthington to Edwardsport in southwest Indiana to approach flood stage. Elevated stream levels followed in the White River in east central, central and far southwest Indiana and in the East Fork White River in southern Indiana.

The dry start to October caused abnormally dry conditions to develop in southern Indiana by the 18th. The area south of U.S. Highway 50 missed by the significant rains of the 19th and 20th remained abnormally dry into November. Stream flow remained at or above normal for much of Indiana at the end of October.

| Site | October 2016 Precipitation | October 2016 Difference from | Wettest Day | Longest Dry Stretch |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|

| | | Normal | | |
|-----------------|------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Indianapolis | 1.96 | -1.16 | 1.04 on 20 | 9 days 2-10 |
| Lafayette | 1.13 | -1.76 | 0.62 on 20 | 10 days 2-11 |
| Muncie | 2.34 | -0.58 | 1.52 on 20 | 10 days 2-11 |
| Terre Haute | 2.03 | -1.54 | 1.42 on 20 | 6 days 6-11 |
| Bloomington | 3.49 | -0.04 | 1.66 on 20 | 6 days 6-11 and 13-18 |
| Shelbyville | 2.07 | -1.04 | 1.21 on 20 | 6 days 6-11 |
| Indy–Eagle Crk. | 3.27 | +0.16 | 1.78 on 19 | 10 days 2-11 |

October 2016 was tied for the 56th driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

October was a relatively quiet month for severe weather. The only exception was during the afternoon and evening of the 19th as scattered severe thunderstorms developed across southern portions of central Indiana. Storms produced large hail and wind damage from near Sullivan and Vincennes east through Bedford and Seymour. A microburst caused barn damage and downed numerous trees in a small area a few miles east of Bedford in Lawrence County.

For information on severe weather in other areas during October, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 35 mph out of the south on the 17th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 16 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on the 1st and 2nd. Thunder was reported on the 19th and 20th.

November 2016 Outlook

The official outlook for November 2016 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for above normal temperatures for central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 43.6 degrees. The outlook also calls for a slightly

greater chance of below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for November at Indianapolis is 3.70".

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.